




# City of San Diego Public Utilities RESIDENTIAL OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION REBATE PROGRAM


## Rainwater Harvesting Pilot Program Rebate Guidelines Rebate – \$0.50 per gallon. Up to \$200.00/Property

Landscapes can soak up more than 50% of the water used at a typical San Diego home. Capturing rain from your roof is a quick way to conserve water and helps prevent pollution by reducing the amount of runoff entering our public storm drain system. City of San Diego (City) Public Utilities residential customers that are served by an individual water meter can receive a cash-back rebate when purchasing and installing a rainwater harvesting system (rain barrel) and connecting it to the home's rain gutter downspout. Read below to understand the program requirements and application process. Rebates will be distributed on a first-come, first served basis and funding is limited, so be sure to check the [water conservation website](#) regularly to determine funding availability for rain barrel rebates. This program is subject to change without prior notification. A rebate check will be sent to the customer of record 6-8 weeks after the application review process is successfully completed. If you have questions after reading these guidelines, please call 619-533-4126 or e-mail [waterconservationrebates@sandiego.gov](mailto:waterconservationrebates@sandiego.gov).

*The City's Storm Water Department is providing funding for rebates and program administration. The City's Public Utilities Department administers the program. Applicant's water account must be in good standing and program requirements must be met to be eligible for rebates. Customer must agree to and sign the application agreement before rebate is administered. Changes made at property related to rebate program must comply with any and all permit requirements and applicable laws, codes, policies, covenants, conditions, and restrictions. The City assumes no responsibility or liability for consequences resulting from the use of rainwater harvesting system or modifications to the drainage flow of property. Please consult with a tax advisor for questions regarding rebate related tax implications.*



### Rebate Process:

1. **Get an application...** Visit the City of San Diego's [water conservation website](#) to download the Residential Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Application.
  2. **Take pre-installation photos...** Before installing rain barrel(s), take one clear photograph of each existing rain gutter downspout that will be fitted with a rain barrel. Photo must include area that rain barrel will eventually stand.
  3. **Install the rain barrel...** Purchase and install a rain barrel(s) that meets the specifications set forth in the "Program Requirements & Parameters" section of these guidelines. Rain barrels purchased before January 1, 2012 do not qualify for a rebate.
  4. **Take post-installation photos...** After installing rain barrel(s), take at least two clear photographs of each barrel, showing downspout connections, secured lid and overflow valve (include photos taken from at least two directions).
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5. **Send in the application...** Include:
- ✓ Completed and signed application.
  - ✓ Original or copy of sales receipt listing price of each rain barrel, store name, purchase date.
  - ✓ All “before” and “after” installation photos (see Steps 2 and 4).

#### **For Electronic Submittals**

Please be sure to check the boxes on the application in lieu of your signature. E-mail application, photos, and receipts to: [waterconservationrebates@sandiego.gov](mailto:waterconservationrebates@sandiego.gov). Be sure to label all attachments with your first initial and last name and description (i.e: jsmith preinstall photo1; jsmith postinstall photo2; jsmith receipt).

#### **For U.S Mail Submittals**

Please send application, photos, and receipts to:

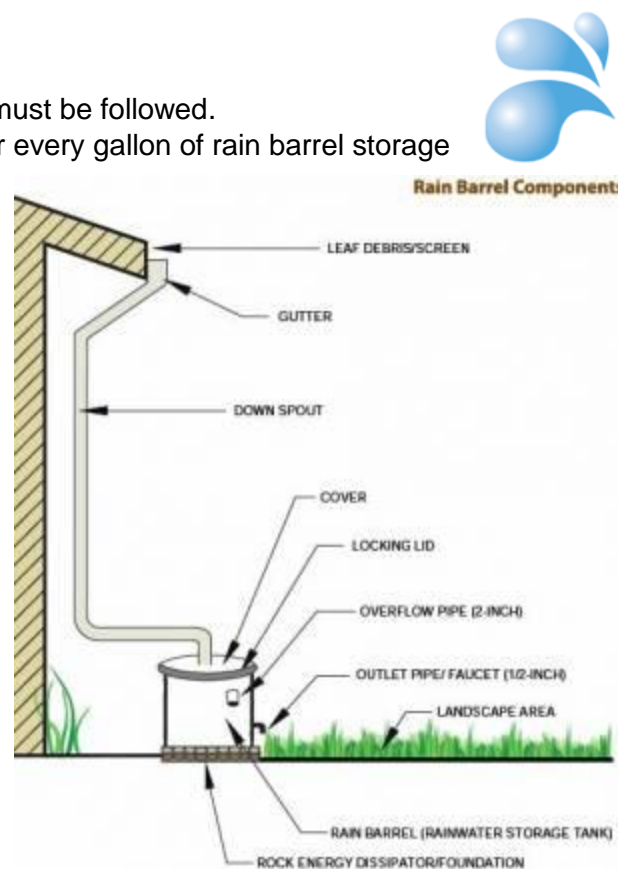
City of San Diego Public Utilities Department  
Attn: Outdoor Water Conservation Rebates  
600 B Street, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92101

6. **Receive a rebate...** Once application is deemed complete please allow 6-8 weeks for the rebate check to arrive in the mail.

*Post-installation site inspections may be performed to ensure installation of rain barrel(s) according to program requirements. If selected, a City representative will contact you in advance to schedule a visit.*

### **Program Requirements & Parameters:**

- Manufacturer's installation and maintenance instructions must be followed.
- Minimum rain barrel size is 50 gallons. Rebate is \$0.50 for every gallon of rain barrel storage capacity, up to 400 gallons. Example: A 55 gallon rain barrel rebate = \$27.50 (\$0.50 x 55 gallons). Multiple barrels may be rebated but total rebate is capped at \$200.00.
- Rebate applies only to above ground rain capture devices that do not require pumps and backflow devices (no homemade barrels).
- Rain barrel must be designed for the intended purpose of rain capture and must be connected to a gutter downspout.
- Rain barrel must not be connected to the (potable water) irrigation system and must be distributed through a hose or bucket only.
- Rain barrel must be placed on a solid and level foundation, such as concrete pad, pavers, or brick for better stability.
- Rain barrel must not block or restrict narrow walkway or path around the home, which may become a safety/emergency access issue.
- Rain barrel must be algae and UV-resistant or specially constructed sun barriers must be used.



- Brass or copper materials (including downspouts) are not allowed due to potential leaching concerns.
- The overflow pipe on the barrel must be equal or larger in diameter to the downspout.
- Overflow pipe from barrel must be directed away from buildings and/or adjacent properties and may flow to landscape (preferred).
- Rain barrel must have a secure lid for child safety, vector control (mosquito, rodent), and debris control.
- Rain barrel must be maintained for a minimum of three (3) years upon receipt of rebate.
- Participants must allow the City to reference the project in outreach materials and must respond to minimal requests for information about the project for purposes of program reporting.
- Participants must agree to repay the City all money received if any of the information included in the application is found to be false or inaccurate.
- Participants must be willing to accommodate a post-site inspection, should it be scheduled, to ensure adherence to program requirements.
- Total rebate amount will not exceed the cost of the device(s), or \$200.00 per property. Only expenses for purchase of the rain barrel are eligible for a rebate (expense for taxes, labor and incidental materials related to installation do not qualify).

### Installation Recommendations:

- Refer to the [City of San Diego Rainwater Harvesting Guide](#) for installation guidance.
- Locate the rain barrel on a raised foundation to accommodate a watering can and increase gravity flow.
- Consider placement of the outlet pipe/faucet at a maximum of 6 inches from the bottom of rain barrel.
- Consider strapping rain barrel in a fashion similar to earthquake straps for hot water heaters, or per manufacturer recommendations.
- Consider limiting the height:width ratio of the rain barrel to 2:1 to prevent instability.



### What are Rain Barrel(s) and how do they work?

Rain barrels are used to collect rainwater from hard surfaces such as rooftops. When you install a rain barrel at your home you are helping to conserve water by reducing the demand on the potable water system to irrigate your garden, and by reducing the amount of wet weather runoff that is collected and sent into the public storm water collection system, which goes untreated into our bays and estuaries.

### How much water do Rain Barrel(s) save?

The amount of water that can be collected from a rooftop depends on several variables, including the dimensions of the rooftop, the collection capacity, and the amount and the timing of the rain received. Be sure to do some calculations to determine how much rain barrel storage capacity you need. Remember, San Diego typically receives around ten inches of rain annually. The rainwater catchment rule of thumb:

**1,000 square feet of roof surface captures about 625 gallons of water for every 1 inch of rain that falls.**

